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THE WERNER COMPANY, AKRON, O.

INFANTRY
OHIO NATIONAL GUARD



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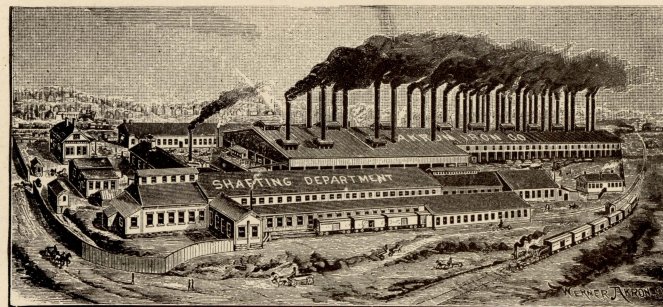
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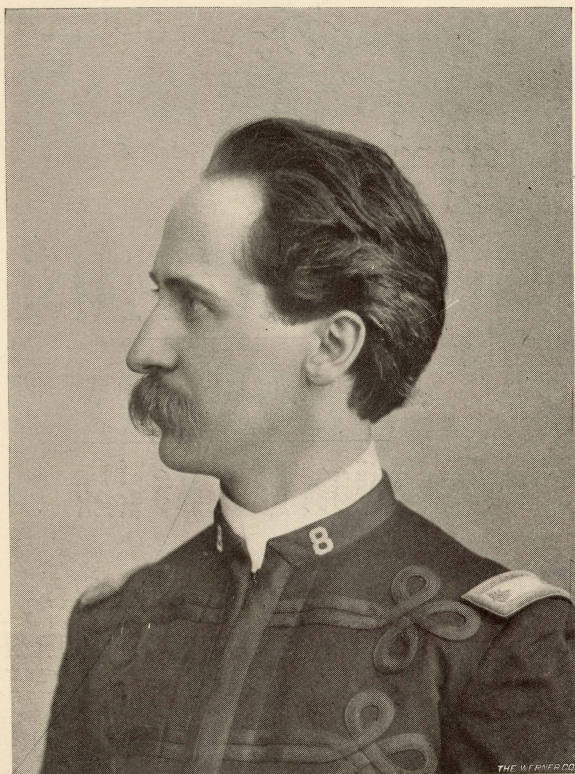
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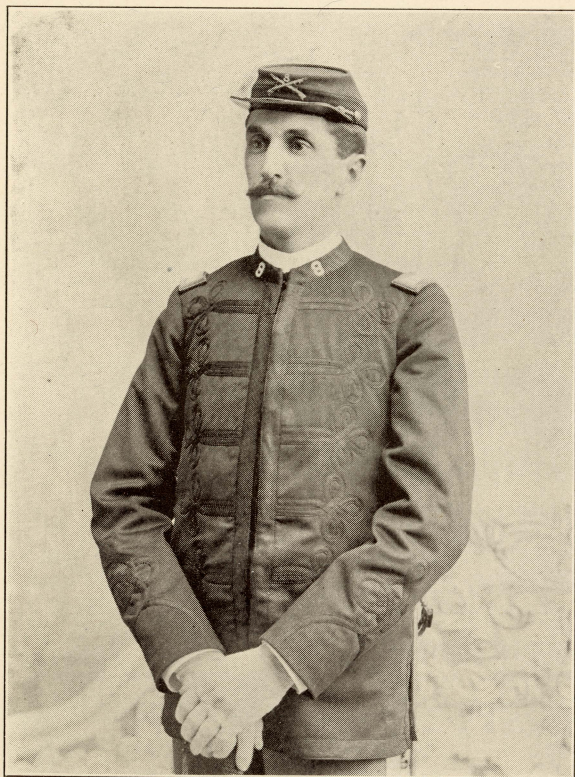
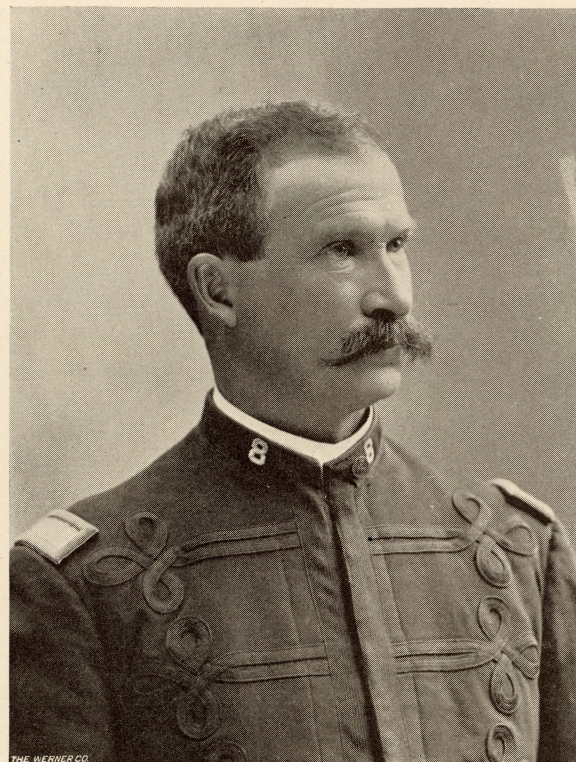


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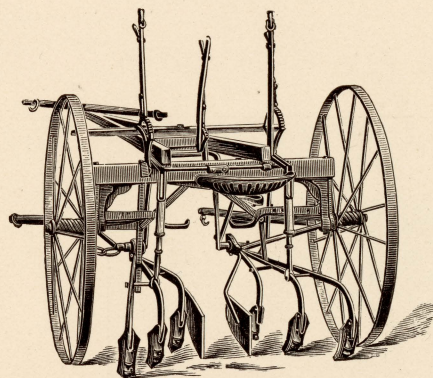
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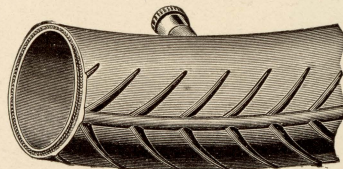
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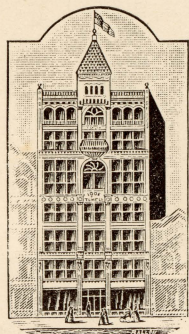
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An Historical Sketch of Company B



IN the fall of 1875 a number of the younger veterans of the Civil War, aided by others too young to have participated in that strife, began to agitate the matter of forming a military company in this city. The State did very little for the military or its service, at that time scarcely two dozen companies being in existence within its borders, but, aided by a few public spirited citizens, the movement was encouraged. At a meeting held Friday evening, November 12, 1875, in Pendleton's block, the movement had progressed so far that a name was agreed upon and officers were elected. The name by which the company has since been known was selected, "The Akron City Guards," and three war veterans were chosen to head its muster roll: Captain, David W. Thomas; First Lieutenant, Alexander G. Maynes; Second Lieutenant, T. D. McGillicuddy. The next step was to muster the organization into the Ohio National Guard (militia), as the State troops were then called. An enlistment roll, duly signed and certified, bearing the date of December 4, 1875, was forwarded to the Adjutant-General's office with fifty-two names. A month later, January 3, 1876, the company was duly mustered into the service of the State of Ohio, the twenty-second infantry company in point of age in the Ohio National Guard.

On the same date a new election was held for officers. Captain Thomas was continued in office, Lieutenant Maynes declined a re-election, and Lieutenant McGillicuddy was promoted. The vacancy thus caused was filled by the election of Richard P. Marvin, Jr. The corps was for some time an independent company, no regimental organization existing in this part of the State. The officers only held their commissions one year instead of five, as now. On January 8, 1877, the old officers were re-elected, shortly followed by an almost entire change. In March of that year, the Ninth regiment O. N. G. was organized, the Akron company assigned to it and lettered A, and further complimented by the election of its captain to the colonelcy of the regiment. Colonel Thomas recognized the efficiency of Lieutenant McGillicuddy by appointing him to the adjutancy of the regiment. The vacancies in the company thus created were filled by pro-

moting Lieutenant Marvin to the captaincy, electing Orderly Sergeant Emmet F. Taggart first lieutenant, and Henry H. Brown second lieutenant. Captain Marvin soon found that he had not the time to give proper attention to his duties as captain, and resigned shortly after being elected. Second Lieutenant Brown was promoted to the vacancy, and Captain Marvin showed his attachment to the company by accepting the lieutenantancy thus made vacant. Captain Brown was the model of a fine company commander. His erect figure and martial bearing made him a conspicuous figure everywhere—one of the finest disciplinarians the State service ever drew into its ranks, a very thorough tactician, a gentleman and a soldier. He made and maintained Company A the best in the Ninth regiment. The only commander of the company to serve out a full term of five years, and accepting a re-election, he was, for several years before he left the service, the ranking captain in the State. Had his ambition led him in that direction he could have easily secured a field officer's commission, and would have honored the field as he did the line. Finding at length that the demands of the company made too great a drain on his time, discouraged perhaps because of the meagre support that the State gave its troops, and with the difficulty of recruiting the company with the material he wished to see in its ranks, he sent his resignation to Governor Hoadley, the commander-in-chief, October, 1884. He was succeeded by First Lieutenant W. Acker Noble, a most efficient and capable officer, then serving his second enlistment of five years in the company, and who won his two bars by advancing step by step through every grade of the non-commissioned officer's rank, the two lieutenantcies to the command of the company. He is the only officer who ever rose to the captaincy by progressive advancement, grade by grade, and he profited by it on account of the thorough knowledge it gave him of the duties of every officer under him. His lieutenants were Albert A. Bartlett and Hobart C. Peck, both tried veterans of the war of 1861 to 1865 (the former the present faithful quartermaster of the Eighth). Lieutenant Peck's name stands seventeenth on the original enlistment roll of the company, and by

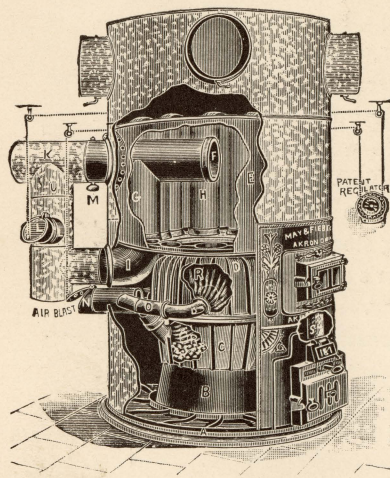
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 We Serve the Best Meal for 25 Cents
 And when you want any of the above
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 MANUFACTURED BY
MAY & FIEBEGER
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Get our Prices
 They are the Lowest when
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Perfect Combustion Obtained
 Large Volumes of Heat at Small Cost

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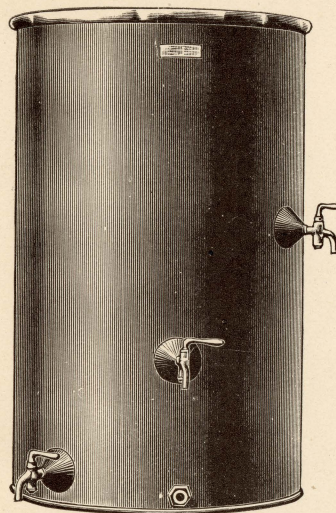
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CROSS OIL FILTER

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Cleveland and Cuyahoga Falls.....	Single Trip, 50	Round Trip, 90
Cleveland and Bedford.....	Single Trip, 15	Round Trip, 25
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... to have your homes and business places wired for Electric Lights. The work will be done by this Company at the actual cost

... Without any Annoyance

to people occupying the premises, and you can thus avail yourselves of the opportunity to use the only safe method of lighting. It is the CLEANEST and BEST



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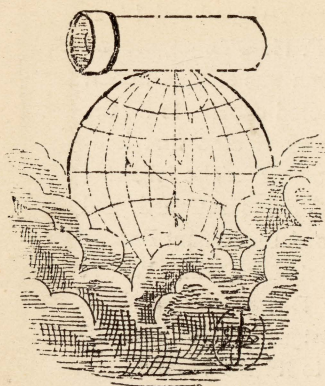
long and faithful service in the ranks, in the line of file closers, and on the right of the company as orderly sergeant (the office now designated as first sergeant), fairly and honorably won his commission.

In 1885 the company had diminished in point of active membership to almost the minimum allowed by law to retain membership in the State service. An influx of young blood was felt to be necessary to enable it to regain the supremacy in the regiment, now the Eighth, by the enlistment in the service of "Wooster City Guards," for some time an independent company, and at that time one of the best drilled infantry corps in the country. To that end an attempt was made to form a union with the Akron rifle corps, an organization formed by Captain F. G. Spidel, who helped form the crack Wooster company, for practice in rifle shooting and gradually developed into an infantry corps. In November, 1885, a fusion of the two bodies was accomplished, and in pursuance of the agreement by which it was effected the two lieutenants of the Akron City Guards resigned. Charles W. F. Dick and Ira I. Morrison, of the rifle corps, were elected to fill the vacancies. From this time is dated the remaking and up-building of the company to its present state of efficiency. By that union some twenty new members were gained, young, active, many of them belonging to the best families of the city, all of the finest material for soldiers. A few months after, Captain Noble resigned, and in May, 1886, Lieutenant Dick was chosen to succeed him, and Frederick C. Bryan, then first sergeant, was elected first lieutenant. Captain Dick served with great proficiency and ability until his promotion to a majority in March, 1888. This was followed by a promotion all along the line, and Lieutenant Bryan was elected captain, Lieutenant Morrison first lieutenant and First Sergeant W. A. Goslin, second lieutenant.

The officers did not change until April 17, 1889, when Lieutenant Goslin resigned. April 23, 1889, George H. T. Dunn was elected to fill the vacancy. April 21, Lieutenant Morrison resigned to accept promotion as inspector of rifle practice of the Eighth regiment. The following month Lieutenant Dunn

was elected first lieutenant, and Corporal Geo. C. Conger, second lieutenant. In May, 1892, Lieutenant Dunn resigned and Lieutenant Conger was elected first lieutenant, F. H. O'Brien, second lieutenant. January 26, 1893, Captain Bryan was elected major. March 9, 1893, Lieutenant Conger was elected captain to fill the vacancy thus created. Fred H. O'Brien was elected first lieutenant and Charles C. Benner second lieutenant. The following October Captain Conger and Lieutenant O'Brien resigned, and the company remained in command of Second Lieutenant Benner until January 4, 1894, when he was elected captain, Walter T. Flower first lieutenant and Arthur J. Durant second lieutenant. In March Lieutenant Durant resigned, and June 10 Sergeant Harry J. Blackburn was elected to fill the vacancy.

May 1, Lieutenant Flower resigned, and on July 2 Lieutenant Blackburn was elected first lieutenant and Sergeant Will O. Rutherford second lieutenant, as the officers stand at present. The present regimental organization was formed in September, 1878, out of the Ninth and Eighth regiments, by the disbanding of companies in both regiments, only enough companies being left to make one whole regiment. It was numbered the Eighth, and the letter of the Akron company changed from A to B. Colonel Thomas held the command until July, 1881, when he resigned, and Arthur L. Conger of this city was elected July 25, to the command of the new organization. He appointed Lieutenant Taggart of Company B as his adjutant. At all times since the organization the company has been ready and able to perform any service required of it. It was ordered out and held itself in readiness to march at the command "forward" during the railroad strikes in 1877, and the Cincinnati riots of 1884. It performed efficient service guarding coal mines and property in the Tuscarawas Valley for thirty-five days in 1876, and went to Wooster in December, 1880, to help uphold the majesty of the law in seeing that legal forms took their course in putting a condemned murderer to death. Did public duty around the public square and catafalque of the lamented Garfield during the obsequies at Cleveland, in 1881, and faced danger and a bloodthirsty mob



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Photo by Durant.

Co. B IN CAMP, 1895.





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at Ashland on the occasion of a double hanging in 1884. The company then did no service until May, 1894, when it was called to the armory on account of labor troubles in this city. It remained in the armory from May 6 to the thirteenth. June 6, 1894, at ten o'clock at night, Captain Benner was ordered to form his company as soon as possible and report at Zanesville, Ohio. The company left the city at midnight without scarcely any one in the city knowing they had left, and arrived at Zanesville at six o'clock in the morning, where they joined the balance of the regiment, and were immediately loaded in a coal car without any breakfast and proceeded to Barnesville, arriving there about six o'clock at night, when each man received his first ration of food since leaving Akron, sleeping along the railroad tracks and in box cars in Barnesville.

The next morning the company with the balance of the regiment proceeded to McClainsville, where the regiment established headquarters. At ten o'clock of the night of June 8 Captain Benner was ordered with his command to guard a tunnel about three miles west of Bellaire.

Here he remained with his company until the night of June 14, when he was ordered to guard the railroad bridge over the Ohio River which connects Bellaire, Ohio, with Benwood, W. Va.

Here the company remained until June 19, when the strike was declared off. The company performed its last service at the armory March 30 and 31, 1896, to prevent lynching of Anson B. Strong, who was suspected and under arrest for the murder of the Stone family at Tallmadge, Ohio.

The first encampment of the command was held at the Fair Grounds in Akron in 1877, and the second at Myers' Lake, near Canton, 1878; the third at Rocky River, near Cleveland, in 1879; the fourth at Gaylord's Grove, north of Cuyahoga Falls; in 1881, at Peninsula. The encampment for 1882, ordered for August 22 at Minerva City, was abandoned because of the severe sickness of the colonel's wife. In 1883 the regiment camped at the Fair Grounds at Canal Dover, and in 1884 on Woodland Heights, Cleveland, Ohio; in 1885 back again at Myers' Lake; in 1886

at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, in 1887 at Galion, Ohio, and in 1888 the regiment with the entire force of the Ohio National Guard encamped near Columbus. In 1889 the company went to New York instead of camp; also attended the inauguration of President Harrison in the same year. In 1890 camped at Massillon, in 1891 at Myers' Lake, in 1892 at Huron, Ohio, and also attended the dedication of the World's Fair buildings in Chicago, 1893. In 1894 there was no encampment because of the coal strike. In 1895 the regiment encamped at the State camp grounds at Newark, Ohio, and in 1896 at Cleveland.

The company has at various times enjoyed the advantages of having as drill masters, gentlemen who were trained soldiers, the first one being Lieutenant E. M. Weaver, Jr., of the Second U. S. A., on detail as military instructor at Western Reserve College, Hudson, Ohio, from 1877 to 1880. Though only called on a few times he was of great assistance to the company. In the fall of 1877, through the efforts of Captain Dick, Lieutenant Alfred C. Sharpe, Twenty-second U. S. I., then doing a tour as military instructor at Wooster University, began a weekly visit to Akron for the purpose of instructing and drilling Company B. He was a gentleman and a scholar through and through, as well as a soldier, and by his bearing and example no less than by his lectures and drills, he infused a spirit of thorough discipline into the company, made it ambitious to excel, and when his tour at Wooster ended he had brought the company up to the front ranks, and its drill and acquaintance with the varied round of duties which a soldier may be called on to perform made it equal to the best in the State.

The company of to-day differs from the company as constituted twenty years ago in more ways than one. The company was organized with a large number of soldiers. The average age of the first enrollment was thirty years, an age greater than that of some of the members who saw active service under fire in defense of their country. In 1881 an applicant for membership was rejected because he was under age. To-day nearly one-half the company were under age when enlisted, and the average age is

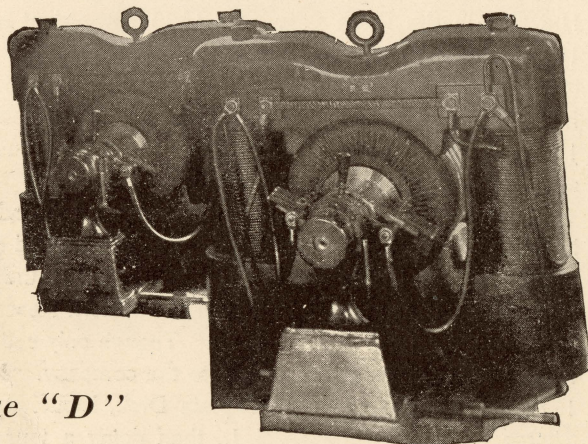
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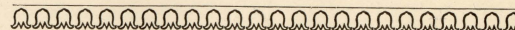
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Prop. Forest City Bird and Tackle Store, No. 349 Superior St., Cleveland, O.

Oct. 14, 1896.

under twenty-two—about the average of the soldiers who fought and won the battles of the last war. The two oldest members, Sergeant J. W. Dice and Corporal Harry G. Spidel, enlisted May 12, 1879.

Many of its members are the sons of soldiers, two at least are sons of former members of the company. The *morale* of the company has steadily improved in late years; character and social standing are essential requisites for admission to the corps. Within the past year a large number of inactive and useless members have been weeded out. This process is being continued, and the corps is one now that any young man could feel honored in belonging to. In target shooting the Akron City Guards have held an unquestioned supremacy in the organization to which it has been attached.

At the first encampment of the Ninth regiment, at Akron, a team from Company A met four other company teams and made 180 points to their nearest competitor's 140. June 14, 1878, at the second regimental target shoot of the Ninth regiment, at Cuyahoga Falls, the company was again victorious. In October of that year, after the company became Company B of the Eighth, at a match held at Akron, B defeated five other teams, almost distancing all competitors. The company has never been defeated in the matches since then, and keeps in practice by firing in the armory and on the range.

Considering the little that is done for the corps by the State, the present high standing of the company is something the city should feel proud of.

Of the present officers Captain Chas. C. Benner has credit of six years of National Guard service, having enlisted December 1, 1890, in Company B; was appointed corporal, May 22, 1892; elected second lieutenant from corporal March 9, 1893; elected captain January 4, 1894. He had command of the company during labor trouble in Akron and coal strike of 1894. First Lieutenant Harry J. Blackburn enlisted April 24, 1893; was appointed corporal August 1, 1893; sergeant May 11, 1894; commissioned second lieutenant June 10, 1896; and first lieutenant July 15,

1896. Second Lieutenant Will O. Rutherford enlisted June 22, 1893; was appointed corporal February 19, 1894; sergeant February 5, 1895; was commissioned second lieutenant July 15, 1896.

Roster of Commissioned Officers Since Organization.

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R. J. Marvin Jr.	F. C. Bryan
H. H. Brown	Geo. C. Conger
W. A. Noble	Charles C. Benner

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Alexander G. Maynes	Ira I. Morrison
E. F. Taggart	Geo. H. T. Dunn
Edward A. Stouffer	Geo. C. Conger
W. Acker Noble	Fred H. O'Brien
Albert A. Bartlett	Walter T. Flower
Chas. W. F. Dick	Harry J. Blackburn

SECOND LIEUTENANTS:

T. D. McGillicuddy	William A. Gostlin
Richard P. Marvin Jr.	George H. T. Dunn
Henry H. Brown	George C. Conger
Edward A. Stouffer	Fred H. O'Brien
W. Acker Noble	Charles C. Benner
Frank Allen	Arthur J. Durant
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Henry C. Peck	Will O. Rutherford
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 Rogers, George W.
 Reninger, Charles E.
 Seymore, Justin G.
 Spafford, Willis B.
 Spangler, Clemon
 Spade, Clarence
 Snyder, James C.
 Tinker, Dale O.
 Tanneyhill, Franklin
 Whitsel, Byron
 Winters, Harry M.
 Yountz, William C.

The Gibbs Patented Rubber Cushioned Horse Shoe

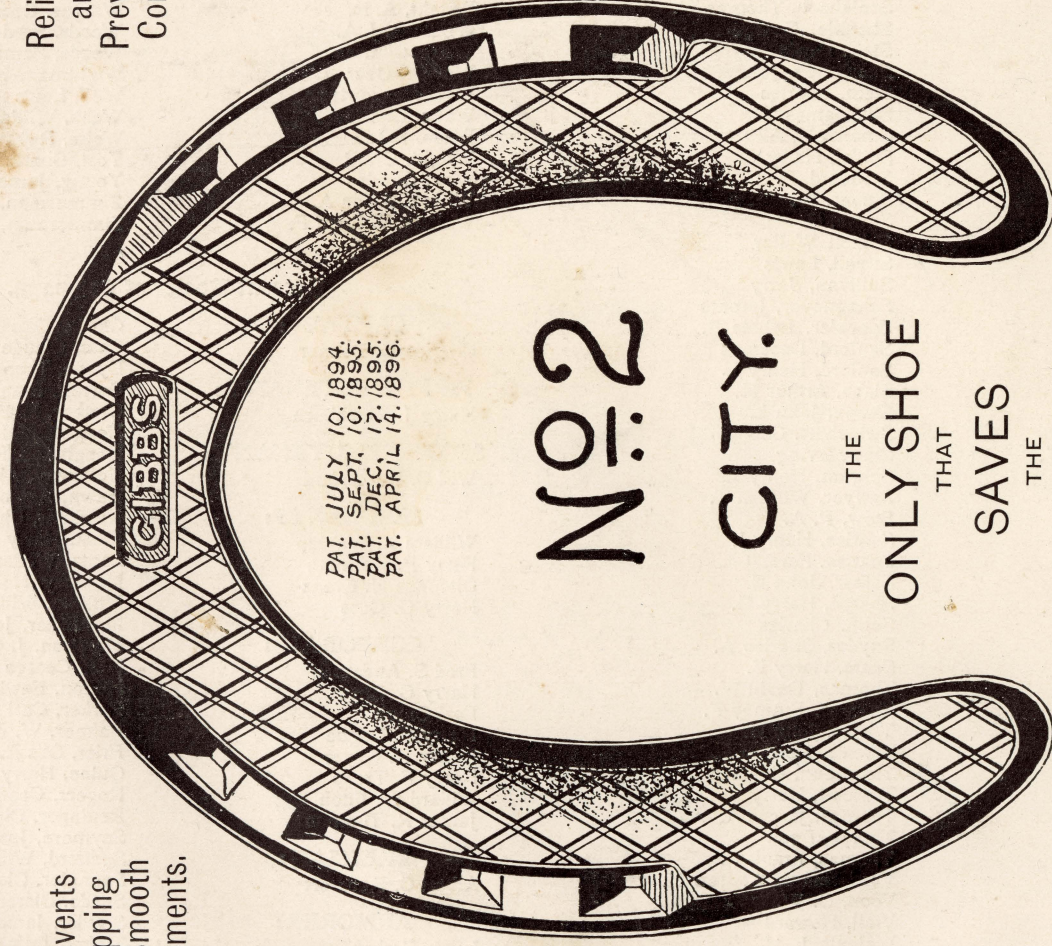
The shoe consists of a forged steel frame, pierced with slots, through and around which a rubber cushion is vulcanized, forming a compact and solid but elastic shoe composed partly of rubber and partly of steel. It may be readily shaped to the foot cold.

It takes the concussion of the blow of the foot on the pavement off the hoof, leg and shoulder of the horse, hence cures the lame horse and saves from lameness the sound horse.

It keeps the foot from heating, and therefore not only makes the hoof healthy but prevents puffs and windgalls.

Prevents
Slipping
on Smooth
Pavements.

Relieves
and
Prevents
Corns.



It is not a pad but a regular cushioned shoe and covers no more surface on the hoof than an ordinary steel shoe

HORSE'S FOOT
IS
THE GIBBS SHOE

Ask
Your Blacksmith
for the Gibbs Shoe

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